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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2166**

**PATENT  
5681-11700/P7517**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/087,234  
Filed: March 1, 2002  
Inventors:  
Ajay Kumar  
Hanumanthu Rao Susarla  
Prakash Khemani

Title: LOCK MECHANISM FOR  
A DISTRIBUTED DATA  
SYSTEM

§ Examiner: Hwang, Joon H.  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2166  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5681-11700  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name

*[Signature]*

Signature

June 16, 2006

Date

Please DO  
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**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF APRIL 21, 2006**

7/14/06  
Jh  
Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of April 21, 2006, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.